

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An audio dispensing valve for a beverage dispenser, comprising:

a valve for regulating beverage fluid flow through the audio dispensing valve;

a switch in operative engagement with the valve for selectively activating the valve; and

an audio unit, comprising: linked with the switch for providing audible information therefrom

a sonic generator assembly for providing audible information therefrom, and

a sensor linked with the sonic generator assembly and with the switch, wherein the sensor

activates the sonic generator assembly responsive to the switch activating the valve.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The audio dispensing valve according to claim 1 wherein the ~~audio unit is~~
~~activated and deactivated in cooperative engagement with~~ sensor deactivates the sonic generator assembly
responsive to the switch as the switch selectively activates the valve deactivating the valve.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The audio dispensing valve according to claim ~~1~~ 3 wherein the sonic generator assembly comprises:

an audio message memory unit for storing an audio message;

an audio control logic unit linked with the sensor and the audio message memory unit for receiving ~~the trigger~~ an activation signal from the sensor and generating an acoustic signal thereof; and

an acoustic signal emitter linked with the audio control logic unit for projecting the acoustic signal from the audio dispensing valve.

Claim 5 (original): The audio dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the audio control logic unit retrieves the audio message from the audio message memory unit and places the audio message in a recognizable format for the acoustic signal emitter.

Claim 6 (original): The audio dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the acoustic signal emitter comprises:

an audio amplifier electrically linked with the audio control logic unit for receiving the acoustic signal from the audio control logic unit; and

a loudspeaker electrically linked with the audio amplifier, whereby the audio amplifier provides sufficient power to the acoustic signal to drive the loudspeaker so that the acoustic signal is projected from the audio dispensing valve.

Claim 7 (original): The audio dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the audio unit further comprises a volume adjustment linked with the sonic generator assembly for adjusting output volume of the acoustic signal projected from the audio dispensing valve.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for providing audible information from an audio dispensing valve, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

storing an audio message containing audible information within an audio unit;

linking the audio unit with a switch;

activating the audio unit with the switch;

generating an acoustic signal with the audio unit; ~~and~~

projecting the acoustic signal from the audio dispensing valve via the audio unit; and

linking a volume adjustment with the audio unit for adjusting output volume of the acoustic signal projected from the audio unit.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (new): The audio dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the audio control logic unit ceases generating an acoustic signal responsive to a deactivation signal received from the sensor.